

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



YOUR OCHOCO NATIONAL FOREST was created in 1911 by combining parts of the Deschutes and Malheur forests, both of which were established in 1908. Its 890,946 acres lie at the western end of the Blue Mountain range in the geographic center of Oregon.

The name Ochoco was a local Indian word for willows which are found along the stream of that name. Ochoco was also the name of a nearby Snake or Piute chief.

Some of the first known white visitors to this area were Peter Skene Ogden and his party of Hudson's Bay Company trappers. Ogden's party first reached Crooked River near the present town of Prineville on December 17, 1825. They trapped fur-bearing animals along Ochoco Creek, and left the area on January 11, 1826, traveling to the John Day Valley.

The first settlers came about 1860 and took up the raising of livestock, which continues to be a major industry in the area. More recently lumbering has become prominent. Agricultural crops have been very important since the introduction of irrigation in the early part of the century.

Multiple Use of the Forest Resources

Soil and water are the basic forest resources upon which all other resources depend. The other principal resources or products are timber, recreation, forage, and wildlife. Under the principle of multiple use, the forest is managed so that all land is devoted to its most productive use for the good of all the people. In many cases, a combination of uses is achieved on the same areas. Conflicts are resolved on the basis of the greatest good for the greatest number of people in the long run.

Water Use

Water is one of the most important products of the forest. As the population increases and agricultural land use is intensified, the need for an adequate supply of pure, sediment-free water becomes greater. The Ochoco National Forest is the source of water for adjacent

[1]

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Pacific Northwest Region

Forest Service
August 1956



Harvesting timber provides jobs for local people.

F-470757



Only mature timber is removed in the first cutting. The forest is left in a healthy, growing condition for future generations.

Before a sale is made, trained foresters mark mature and defective trees for cutting, leaving the more thirsty ones for continued growth and for reseeding to insure future harvests. After the timber harvest is completed, the steeper log-skidding roads may be seeded to grass and other vegetation where necessary to hold the soil in place.

Of the money collected by the forest from the sale of timber, forage, and special-use permits, 25 percent is returned by the U. S. Government to the State for distribution to the counties in which the forest is located. The counties use this money for roads and schools.

Recreation

Each year an estimated 35,000 persons visit the Ochoco National Forest for healthful, relaxing, outdoor recreation. Hunting, fishing, picnicking, hiking, skiing, and camping are some of the wholesome activities enjoyed by these visitors. They can enter the forest by U. S. Highway 26. The southern part of the forest can be reached from U. S. 20, which goes through Burns, and from State Highway 380, serving as an access from Prineville.

This forest is well known to the sportsman, particularly the big-game hunter. The large mule deer herd and a lesser number of elk make it a favorite hunting spot.

The many streams in the forest furnish fair trout fishing, and Ochoco Reservoir nearby is also a favorite spot for fishermen. Two small lakes furnish excellent trout fishing: Walton Lake, developed by the Izaak Walton League of Prineville, and Delintment Lake built mainly by the citizens of Burns. Seasons and bag limits for game and fish are set by State game authorities. All other State hunting and fishing laws and regulations apply on the national-forest areas, and State licenses are required.

Several opal, agate, and thunder egg deposits in and near the forest reward rare-rock collectors.

Twenty-one developed campgrounds are maintained for public convenience at the more heavily used recreation areas.

[3]

2. In case you are injured and alone, keep calm. Stay where you are, clear an area to mineral soil, and build a signal fire with green boughs in it. Usually someone will find you.
3. If you are lost, signal by 3 blasts from a whistle or 3 shots from a gun, 3 regulated puffs of smoke, 3 flashes of a mirror or flashlight. Repeat at regular intervals. If it is recognized by the search party, it will be answered by 2 signals. Three signals of any kind, either audible or visible is the nationwide SOS call in the mountains. Use it only when in actual need of help.

Notify the county sheriff's office if a member of your party is believed to be lost or in trouble and it is beyond your resources to find or assist him. The Forest Service officers cooperate with the counties in rescue work.

Be Careful With Fire

If our forests are to continue producing water, wood, forage, wildlife, and other resources, they must be protected from fire. Many fires are caused by lightning, but the majority result from human carelessness. You can help greatly by following these few simple but important rules:

1. Carry a shovel, ax, and water bucket with each auto or packhorse train when planning to camp.
2. Do not smoke while traveling—whether by auto, foot, or on horseback—except while on a paved or surfaced highway.
3. Crush out all cigarettes, pipe heels on a rock or in mineral soil. Break all matches in two before throwing them away. Use your car ashtray.
4. Before building a campfire, select a spot in an opening, clean an area at least 10 feet in diameter down to mineral soil and build the fire in the center. Keep it small. Be extra careful when strong winds or east winds occur. East winds are dry winds in summer.
5. Never leave your campfire unattended even for a few minutes; completely extinguish it with dirt and water.

[5]

help with administrative duties essential to good forest management. You are always welcome to the forest which is yours to use and enjoy. Rangers and other forest officers will be glad to answer your questions and help you in any way possible.

Improved Forest Camps

Arvid Nelson—On Arvid Nelson Road No. 143, 36 miles east of Prineville. Elevation 4,800 feet. Tables (4), fireplaces (6), piped spring water.
Canyon Creek—On Canyon Forest Road No. 142, 13 miles east of Ochoco Ranger Station. Elevation 4,200 feet. Tables (5), fireplaces (5), spring water.
Cougar—On U. S. Highway 26, 25 miles east of Prineville. Elevation 4,200 feet. Tables (3), fireplaces (3), spring water.
Deep Creek—On Arvid Nelson Road No. 143, 23 miles east from Ochoco Highway and 4 miles southeast of Ochoco Ranger Station. Elevation 4,200 feet. Tables (3), fireplaces (3), piped spring water.
Delintment Lake—On Delintment Lake Road No. 194, 48 miles northwest of Burns. Elevation 5,400 feet. Tables (5), fireplaces (5), spring water.
Donnelly—On Donnelly Road No. 181, 41 miles northwest of Burns. Elevation 5,300 feet. Tables (2), fireplaces (0), piped spring water.
Double Cabin—On Sherwood Road No. 1646, 45 miles southeast of Prineville, 12 miles off State Highway No. 380. Elevation 4,900 feet. Tables (2), fireplaces (3), piped spring water.
Grant Spring—On Summit Road No. 127, 30 miles northeast of Prineville and 5 miles west of divide on U. S. Highway 26. Elevation 5,900 feet. Tables (4), fireplaces (4), piped spring water.
Howard—On Donnelly Road No. 181, 48 miles northwest of Burns. Elevation 5,200 feet. Tables (2), fireplaces (4), piped spring water.
Marks Creek—On U. S. Highway 26, 31 miles east of Prineville. Elevation 4,800 feet. Tables (6), fireplaces (6), piped spring water.

[7]

towns and ranches. Water purity, steadiness of flow, and the quantity available for useful purposes are influenced directly and indirectly by practices connected with timber harvesting, grazing, recreation, and other forms of use. A water drainage basin in good condition has sufficient cover of trees, grass, brush, and other plants to hold the soil in place. Also, the live and dead vegetation keeps the soil porous enough to permit rain or snow water to enter it and seep down to underground reservoirs. These provide a more even flow to springs and streams. When soil cover is removed by fire, excessive grazing, or improper timber cutting, the earth is exposed to the direct force of raindrops. Each drop acts as a miniature bomb. Soil is splashed about. Individual particles seal miniature channels against the entry of water, and the rainfall runs off the land, rather than into it. Much soil movement results. The effect of forest activity on the watershed is considered in every planned forest use. When the soil has been stripped of its vegetative cover, new plant growth must be restored as quickly as possible so that forest conditions which help stabilize streamflow are not seriously unbalanced.

Timber Use

Timber is a valuable crop of the forest. The amount that can be harvested each year is based upon the growth potential of the timber crop. Accordingly, the allowable annual cut is presently set at 87 million board-feet. This balancing of cut against growth and other factors is known as sustained yield.

Eighty-five percent of the total timber stand is ponderosa pine. The remainder consists of white fir, lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, and junipers. Mills in the surrounding communities purchase timber, sold by the Government, through a system of competitive bidding. The successful bidder contracts to cut the trees and remove the logs in a manner most favorable to the growth of the younger trees and to the preservation of soil, water, and other values.

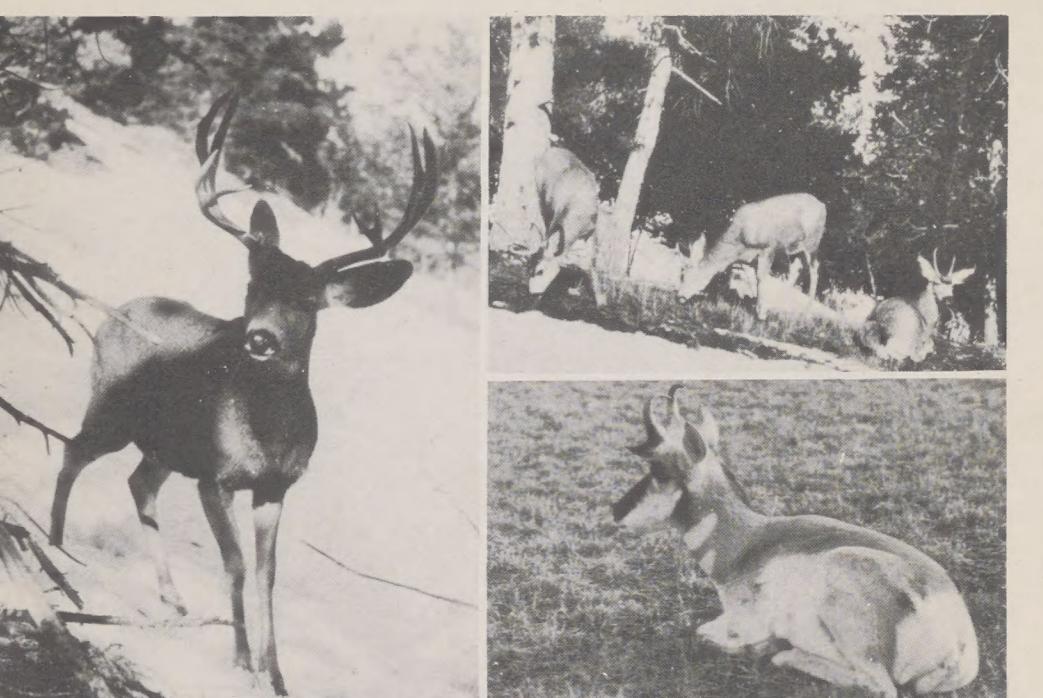
[2]



F-468927
Grass and browse in the forest help sustain the livestock industry, one of the earliest and most important in central Oregon.



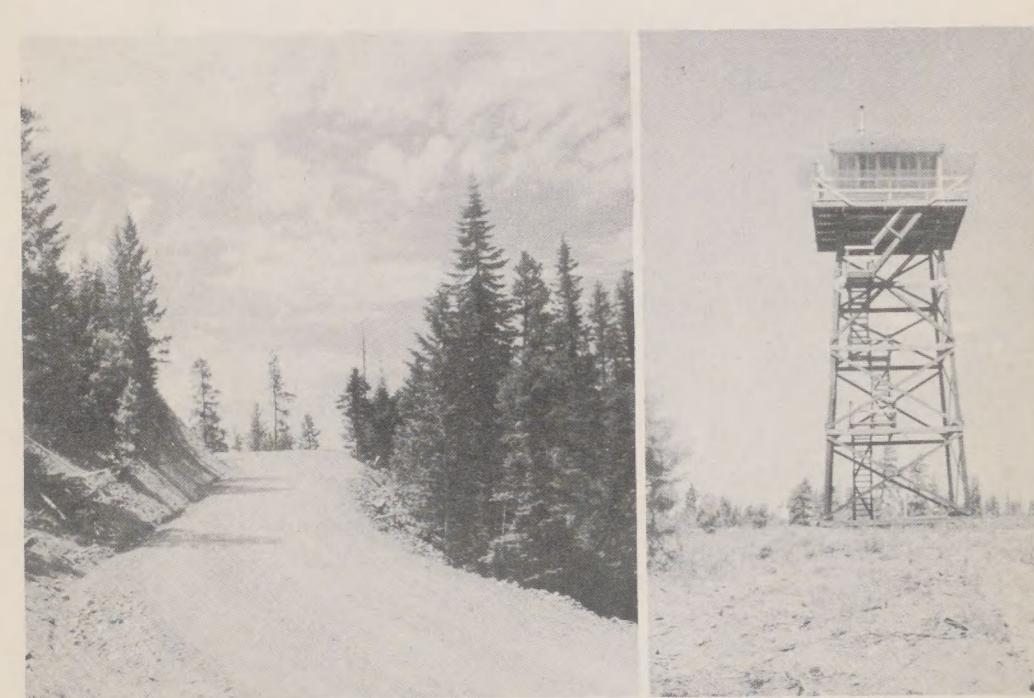
F-468927
Delintment Lake, man-made lake developed with the cooperation of the citizens of Burns and Hines for recreational use.



F-185373, 185371, 185375
Deer, antelope, and other wildlife depend upon the forest for a home.



F-251907
Steins Pillar, an interesting geologic feature.



Timber access logging road, constructed by timber operators to remove timber purchased under timber sale contract. Lookouts are constantly on watch for the first sign of smoke when man's carelessness or lightning turns loose the forest's enemy—FIRE.

Improved State Camps

Ochoco State Park—On U. S. Highway 26, 8 miles east of Prineville. Elevation 3,100 feet. Overnight camping, kitchen facilities.
Band Springs State roadside Rest Stop—On U. S. Highway 26, 24 miles east of Prineville. Elevation 4,900 feet. Tables, piped spring water, and sanitary facilities.

[8]

